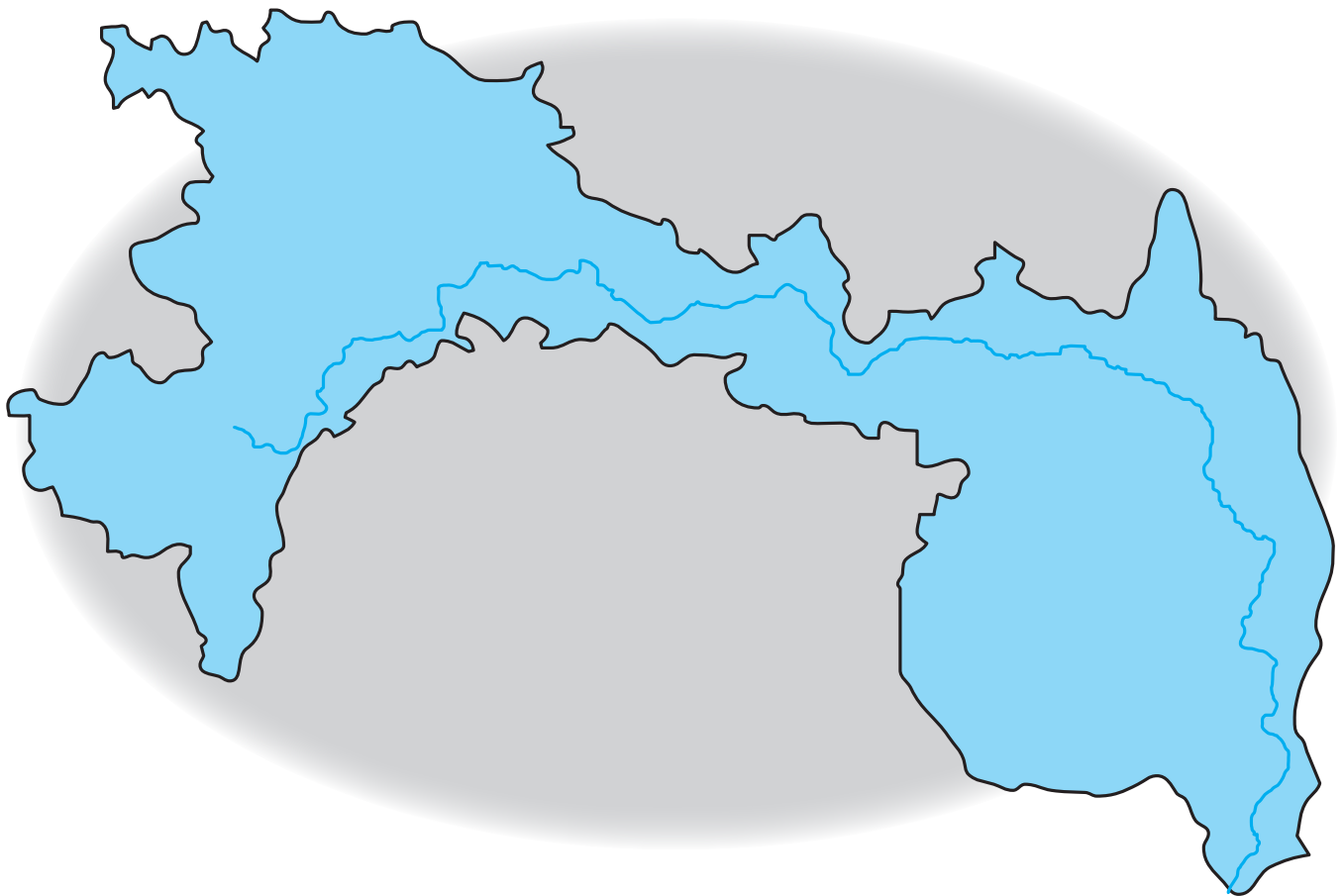


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Upper Sheyenne River Conceptual Water Management Plan



Prepared by the
Upper Sheyenne River Joint Water Resources Board
and the
North Dakota State Water Commission

2008

Subject Committee Recommendations: Agriculture

Objectives:

1. Ensure that the rights of property owners are protected.
2. Increase both the economic and environmental benefits of agriculture through the implementation of better land and water management practices.
3. Provide flood protection for private and public lands to protect against specific flood events.
4. Cooperate with other entities and direct the development of specific plans and goals, for the Joint Board, in order to promote better conservation management practices.
5. Identify local, state and federal regulations that can help or hinder implementation of the Water Plan.
6. Increase farm income through increased commodities production using better water management practices.
7. Encourage and promote better information and a cohesive policy on the issue of dam restoration or removal or new construction.
8. Work with local, state, and federal entities to enact snag and clear policies and programs that benefit the Basin.
9. Work with landowners, local, state, and federal entities to enact erosion and sedimentation mitigation, control, and prevention policies and programs that benefit the Basin.
10. Maintain an active and vocal role in developing policies on water quality regulations that will affect the Basin in coming years.
11. Improve both the quality and quantity of habitat, in order to facilitate such diverse uses as agriculture, wildlife and fisheries, and water purity.

Objective 1. Ensure that the rights of property owners are protected.

Goals:

1. Analyze all Joint Board activities, in order to determine if private property owners' rights are being protected.
2. Balance the needs of agriculture with other uses in respect to township and/or county zoning regulations.

Objective 2. Increase both the economic and environmental benefits of agriculture through the implementation of better land and water management practices.

Goals:

1. Develop mechanisms to address the problem of Basin soils that are considered to be alkali or saline.
2. Continue to encourage the research of techniques used to identify the various water management practices affects on salt movement and accumulation.

3. Investigate possible funding sources for various water management practices through funds available in all available sources.

4. Encourage the use of Best Management Practices in all future water management projects in the Basin.

5. Encourage education about the benefits and issues associated with tile drainage.

Objective 3. Provide flood protection for private and public lands to protect against a specific flood event.

Goals:

1. Continue to develop management practices for water storage and handling in the Basin to minimize crop losses.
2. Develop procedures that address those issues that arise from the use of private and public lands to alleviate flooding.
3. Develop a generic channel maintenance program with adequate funding, using NDCC 61-16.1-09.1 authorization.
4. Encourage advisory groups to assist in the development of plans to manage rain events of various sizes in order to minimize local losses and to help manage water flows for the benefit of downstream entities.

Objective 4. Cooperate with other entities and direct the development of specific plans and goals, for the Joint Board, in order to promote better conservation management practices.

Goal:

1. Continue to encourage the implementation of conservation practices, funded through various agency programs.

Objective 5. Identify local, state and federal regulations that can help or hinder implementation of the Upper Sheyenne River Basin Water Management Plan.

Goals:

1. Encourage the development of mechanisms whereby payment-in-lieu-of-taxes that are made on land in the Basin, are equal to the full amount of property taxes that were paid prior to a public or non-profit entity gaining ownership of that land.
2. Conduct research on the purchase of private lands by sovereign nations, in order to ensure that the amount paid to local taxing authorities remains the same.
3. Encourage education on the value of wetlands to Basin residents including current regulations and/or voluntary wetland agreements.
4. Ensure that the local community has input into any future wetland regulations that would impact the Basin.
5. Balance the needs of agricultural producers with the goals of regulatory agencies for the protection of wildlife and fisheries.
6. Investigate the development of a Basin-wide "wetlands bank" for use in mitigating acres of wetlands being altered by either private or public entities.

Objective 6. Increase farm profits through increased commodities production using better water and land management practices and bio-fuel development.

Goals:

1. Encourage the identification of adequate water supplies for ethanol production facility siting.
2. Encourage a better relationship between, and utilization of, byproducts of ethanol production in agriculture, such as livestock operations.

Specific Actions to be Accomplished or Initiated Prior to 2011 USRCWMP

1. Maintain knowledge of, and active involvement where possible in future water permitting issues that have the potential to impact the waters of the Basin. This should be pursued with the long-term goal of water management at the Basin level.
2. Encourage the State Water Commission to adopt ability to pay as a factor in determining cost-share percentages for water projects.

Subject Committee Recommendations: Economic Development

Objectives:

1. Capitalize on the economic resources that are available in the Upper Sheyenne River Basin.
2. Create a Basin-wide economic development effort utilizing existing Basin economic development organizations.

Objective 1. Capitalize on the economic resources of the Upper Sheyenne River Basin.

Goals:

1. Increase economic development opportunities through improved water and land management (including fee and public access hunting), utilizing local lodging and restaurant taxes where possible and continue to promote educational programs on available economic opportunities.
2. Continue to support the irrigation potential in the Basin by providing assistance to participating producers in order to make the program economically enticing.
3. Encourage the development of non-traditional income producers, such as canoeing, bed & breakfasts, bird watching, rural vacation packages, and scenic byways.
4. Utilize the expertise and information available from NDSU Research and Extension Centers, that serve the Basin, to develop value added opportunities in agriculture.

5. Ensure that the Basin-wide community's infrastructure capabilities are adequate to support increased economic development activities and ensure a quality of place for current and future residents of the Basin (including, but not limited to: adequate roads, including future maintenance needs; adequate airport, airline and charter services; motel and resort facilities; medical and educational facilities and services; community and rural utilities.)

6. Support the Upper Sheyenne Basin Water Management Plan's Recreation Committee recommendations on increasing tourism-related activities throughout the Basin.

7. Encourage cooperation and communication between Basin economic development groups and resident recreational interests.

8. Encourage future water development projects in the Basin be developed with the economic development of the Basin in mind. (Ex. RRVWSP)

Objective 2. Create a Basin-wide economic development effort utilizing existing Basin economic development organizations.

Goals:

1. Promote increased communication and cooperation between Basin economic development groups.
2. Develop a closer working relationship with other jurisdictions throughout the Basin.
3. Encourage annual meetings of the representatives of all Basin economic development organizations to set priorities in the implementation of plans and projects. This process should be initiated and coordinated by the Upper Sheyenne River Basin Joint Water Resource Board.
4. Continue to encourage cooperative ventures and projects; including, but not limited to: labor market studies, regional and national trade shows and ND Department of Commerce programs.

Subject Committee Recommendations: Recreation

Objectives:

1. Develop recreational opportunities in the Upper Sheyenne River Basin.

Objective 1. Develop recreational opportunities in the Upper Sheyenne River Basin.

Goals:

1. Encourage the creation of incentives for opportunities to expand hunting and fishing access in the Basin.
2. Continue efforts to educate the general public about courtesies relating to hunting in the Basin.
3. Promote landowner's perception of wildlife and waterfowl as an "asset" rather than a "liability."
4. Encourage the increase non-consumptive wildlife recreation in the Basin through the use of promotion, education, increased viewing sites, other marketing efforts and infrastructure investment.
5. Encourage the expansion of agricultural "tourism" with local farmers including crop tours, farm and ranch vacation packages, and suitable marketing materials.
6. Secure support, as appropriate, for expanded recreational opportunities in the Basin by providing economic benefit information to State Legislators, farm organizations, financial institutions and other involved parties.

7. Compile and maintain an inventory of recreational opportunities in the Basin including: golf, community celebrations, bike trails, snowmobile trails, cross country skiing areas, museums, historical sites, bird watching opportunities and other recreational activities.

8. Support work to develop and promote the distribution of a Basin-wide recreation information brochure working with all interested parties including: chambers of commerce, tourist and convention bureaus, economic development groups, rural electric cooperatives, and others.

9. Use the internet to promote the Upper Sheyenne River Basin.

10. Support the stocking of area lakes and rivers with desirable species of fish.

11. Increase the promotion of and access to hunting and fishing in the Upper Sheyenne River Basin, including shoreline-fishing opportunities.

12. Coordinate the Upper Sheyenne River Basin Recreation Plan with the North Dakota State Recreation plan and other agency plans as it is revised and updated.

13. Coordinate information and studies done by state agencies to determine economic benefits to Basin recreation programs.

14. Encourage state agencies to cooperate with Basin recreation organizations in the promotion of international tourism.

15. Hold annual meetings of the representatives of all Basin recreation promotional organizations to set priorities and discuss plans and projects. These meetings should be initiated and coordinated by the Joint Board.

16. Continue to work with state, federal, and private agencies to increase awareness of, and develop educational materials on the risks of aquatic nuisance species (ANS).

17. Help to encourage and promote riparian recreational activities, such as kayaking, canoeing, camping, and wildlife watching.

Specific Actions to be Accomplished or Initiated Prior to 2011 USRCWMP

1. Encourage NDGF to provide a seat on ANS Task Force for a representative of the Joint Board.

Subject Committee Recommendations: Wildlife and Fisheries

Objectives:

1. Enhance grassland, woodland and wetland acreages and riverine habitat for the betterment of wildlife and fisheries production in the Upper Sheyenne Basin.
2. Manage water quality and quantity for the benefit of Upper Sheyenne River Basin fisheries and wildlife.
3. Encourage continuation and intensification of agricultural conservation practices that are beneficial to agriculture, wildlife and fisheries in the Upper Sheyenne River Basin.
4. Encourage the implementation of programs that encourage increased youth participation in hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation.
5. Encourage improved communication between agricultural and outdoor interest groups.

Objective 1: Enhance grassland, woodland and wetland acreages and riverine habitat for the betterment of wildlife and fisheries production in the Upper Sheyenne Basin.

Goals:

1. Estimate, on a regular basis, the acreage of quality habitat available.
2. Continue to explore and develop methods that will enhance the quality of existing habitat (i.e., PLOTS program and Water-Bank).
3. Encourage respect for private and public property rights.
4. Ensure public input on issues regarding wetland retention.
5. Encourage the funding of existing voluntary programs designed to create new incentives to improve the quality and diversity of habitat on private lands.
6. Encourage the maintenance of existing programs designed to monitor and test established enhancement methods.

7. Encourage the management of federal, state, non-profit and private lands to improve production of wildlife and fisheries.

8. Encourage the continued stocking of fish in viable lakes within the Upper Sheyenne River Basin through the North Dakota Game and Fish Department.

Objective 2: Manage water quality and quantity for the benefit of Upper Sheyenne River Basin fisheries and wildlife.

Goals:

1. Promote, support, and utilize a Basin-wide water quality monitoring program in cooperation with the United States Geological Survey, the North Dakota Department of Health, and other relevant entities.
2. Identify land management practices that both improve and degrade water quality and quantity.
3. Continue to develop and implement programs that inform

the community of the importance of water quality initiatives and continue developing strategies to implement water quality practices.

4. Work with state, federal, and private agencies to increase awareness of, and prevent the introduction of ANS into the waters of the Upper Sheyenne River Basin.

Objective 3: Encourage continuation and intensification of agricultural conservation practices that are beneficial to agriculture, wildlife and fisheries in the Upper Sheyenne River Basin.

Goals:

1. Continue to support the expansion of implementation of high residue tillage, nutrient management, erosion control, livestock waste management and other sound agricultural management practices.
2. Identify funding sources that provide greater incentives for conservation practices.

Objective 4. Encourage the implementation of programs that encourage increased youth participation in hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation.

Goals:

1. Encourage programs designed to increase interest in hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation.
2. Encourage the maintenance of youth educational and safety programs.
3. Encourage the enhancement, creation, and expansion of programs that are intended to facilitate youth hunting, fishing, and non-consumptive outdoor recreation.

Objective 5. Encourage improved communication between agricultural and outdoor interest groups.

Goals:

1. Encourage the establishment of Basin-wide, landowner and outdoor interest organizations.
2. Identify reasons for conflict.
3. Support the development and implementation of methods designed to resolve conflicts through increased communication.
4. Support the education of community residents and visitors about the respect and courtesies required for good landowner and outdoor interest organization relations.

Specific Actions to be Accomplished or Initiated Prior to 2011 USRCWMP

1. Develop a priority list of dam restoration/removal projects in the Upper Sheyenne River Basin for completion after Warwick Dam.

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